MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 JULY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- After Iranian forces failed to penetrate Iraqi territory on 13-14 July, the enemy was allowed to advance into Iraqi territory before being surrounded and destroyed, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by Baghdad radio reported. Another communique carried by the radio on 17 July claimed Iranian forces were pursued near Basra and the enemy lost many men in the central battle sector of Iraq. It added that Khark Island was again bombed and admitted that one Iraqi plane was shot down. An armed forces communique carried by INA on 18 July said the battle raged near Basra and a helicopter raid successfully destroyed enemy positions in the area. It said 3,000 were killed in the Basra area alone, while Baghdad radio reported earlier that over 6,000 were killed and over 100 tanks were destroyed from 13 to 15 July.

For their part, the Iranians claimed that several Iraqi counteroffensives mounted on 16 and 17 July in the Basra area were crushed and the Iraqis were forced to retreat after they had lost over 50 tanks and hundreds of men, according to Tehran radio and IRNA reports. On 16 July Tehran radio reported that Iraqi planes bombed Hamadan and Abadan, and according to IRNA over 100 civilians were killed in Hamadan. IRNA reported that an Iraqi attempt to infiltrate the Qasr-e Shirin area on 16 July was smashed and that Iranian fire hit the Banamil oil installations in Iraq. The following day, an Iranian military communique carried by the radio said an assault was successfully launched on Iraqi soil in which 77 tanks were destroyed and over 700 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

In an interview with a Tehran paper reported by IRNA, Ground Forces Commander Col 'Ali Sayyad Shirazi said that to gain Iran's rights, the army may have to advance toward Baghdad.

Iraqi Political Position -- President Saddam Husayn said in a speech commemorating the anniversary of the 1968 revolution, broadcast by Baghdad radio on 17 July, that Iraq is not only defending itself but the entire Arab nation against the "alliance" between Israel and Iran, and warned Iran to end its aggression. Husayn severely criticized Arabs whose support for Iran is based on "false claims" that Iran backs the Arab nation in liberating Palestine, and said this led to the breakup of Arab solidarity. He reiterated that Arab states should support each other when there is a war with a foreign country and when the victim of aggression is Arab. He said the collapse of Arab solidarity prevented a response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and even those Arabs who promised to support Iraq in case of an Iranian invasion could not be depended on when the time came. Regarding the upcoming nonaligned meeting in Baghdad, Husayn said work will continue in preparation for the conference and he explained that the Nonaligned Movement will meet in Iraq because it wants a change in the policy line and wants a "new spirit."

Iranian Political Position -- Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in an address on 18 July carried by Tehran radio told the Persian Gulf states that Iran would not claim anything from them but warned that they must not be involved in supplying arms to the enemy. He added that Iran would not attack another country unless it was in defense. On the current war, he said invading Iraq was a "defensive necessity" and Khorramshahr and Abadan must not be threatened by Iraq.

Before departing for Algeria, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi gave an interview carried by Tehran radio in which he likewise said the Gulf states should not feel threatened by Iran. He denied that his visit to Algeria is related to Algerian mediation in the Iran-Iraq war.

In a speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni read out over Tehran radio at the Jerusalem Day rally in Tehran, he criticized Islamic "hypocrites" who made no effort to counter the United States and Israel, saying it was the duty of Islamic nations to use their military

and oil weapons against these countries and that Iran could not take any measures except to invade Iraq and depose the regime. He added that if no action is taken by the regional Islamic governments, Iran has the right to appeal directly to the peoples. In a speech carried by the radio on the same occasion, Prime Minister Musavi warned that the United States is trying to expand its policy in the Persian Gulf with the aid of Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He claimed that Iran has assumed the leadership of the struggle against this policy and that it has the duty to expand this cause. Musavi chided the Soviet Union for its lack of decisiveness toward Israel.

During the nonaligned meeting held in Nicosia, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati gave a press conference reported by Nicosia radio in which he said Iran did not make the overthrow of Saddam Husayn a condition, but simply a "recommendation" to the Iraqi people.

Iran

Council of Guardians member Ayatollah Mohammad Mahdavi-Kani said the Assembly of Experts will meet in late July to discuss the leadership succession, IRNA reported. Later a government spokesman denied "rumors" of extensive Cabinet changes impending and said only three or four ministers will be involved, Tehran radio noted.

Lebanon

Israeli Position -- The "terrorists" do not have 30 days to leave west Beirut of their own accord, Prime Minister Menahem Begin told a 17 July Tel Aviv rally in a speech reported by Jerusalem radio. The IDF has liquidated 90 percent of the "terrorists," Begin said, and will eliminate the remaining 10 percent as well. He also announced that Israel will sign a peace treaty with Lebanon this year and that he intends to ask King Husayn of Jordan to likewise sign a peace treaty and establish a confederacy with Israel. Begin promised that Israel will provide the Jordanians with a free port at Haifa.

Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon also addressed the rally, which was in support of the "Peace for Galilee" Operation, telling his audience that Israel will provide a temporary, immediate asylum to any "terrorist" who surrenders to the IDF in Beirut, providing his hands are not "stained with the blood" of terrorist actions and he immediately renounces his membership in the PLO, the radio reported.

The following day, Begin told IDF disabled veterans he will shortly end the campaign in Lebanon, according to the radio. Nevertheless, Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori emphasized earlier that Israel must fully exhaust political moves because otherwise the political damage to Israel will exceed the advantages of annihilating or capturing the "terrorists" in Beirut, the radio noted. Estimating that there are reasonable chances the PLO will leave Lebanon, Tzipori said that the political moves should be exploited without a timetable. However, an Israeli Government source subsequently revealed that U.S. envoy Philip Habib has failed in his mission and that Israel no longer expects a breakthrough in the negotiations, the radio said. Only a dramatic U.S. move -- such as sending Henry Kissinger to the region -- will prevent Israel from deciding to remove the "terrorists" from Beirut by its own means, the radio added. According to another radio report, Israeli circles were surprised by reports that Habib is to visit Amman.

Destination of PLO -- Syria is prepared to accept the PLO leaders but will not give shelter to the Palestinian fighters besieged in west Beirut, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam reaffirmed during a stopover in Amsterdam on his way to Washington, Damascus radio reported. Meanwhile, Beirut radio noted that the main problem in the negotiations continues to be that no Arab country has agreed to host the PLO fighters.

PLO Position -- Asked in a Nicosia television interview about the possible evacuation of Beirut, PLO International Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi said the PLO is there to stay and "if we want to leave Lebanon, we have to go to our homeland -- to Palestine." Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said in an interview reported by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio that the PLO refuses to acquiesce to the demand that it apply

to Syria for its acceptance of the PLO and its leaders. This is not only because of Syria's stated refusal to receive the PLO fighters, but also because "these conditions are not the ones we had agreed upon," he said. While Syria's stance is understandable, he asserted, the Syrians should "in return" commit their whole army to the battle in Lebanon and stand alongside the PLO. Khalaf also criticized U.S. envoy Habib's "total partiality" to Israel and the Phalangists. Nevertheless, the PLO representative in Vienna announced that the PLO does not object to U.S. participation in a UN-controlled international force, according to a subsequent Monte Carlo radio report.

Lebanese Comments, Contacts -- Lebanon will not sign a unilateral peace treaty with Israel and if an Israeli withdrawal cannot be secured by political means, Lebanon will soon form a "combatant national unity" designed to terminate the occupation, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan declared in a MONDAY MORNING interview reported by Beirut radio. Indicating that he has withdrawn his resignation, Al-Wazzan said the matter is considered ended.

In another development, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt met with Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil in an attempt to surmount obstacles between the Socialists and Phalangists, according to statements by both men cited by Beirut radio after the meeting. In a Voice of Lebanon radio interview, Al-Jumayyil said he hopes the talks with Junblatt, which were the first for 8 years, will dispel the atmosphere of anxiety and fear in the mountains.

Junblatt subsequently left for Damascus for talks with Syrian officials and then visited Jordanian King Husayn in Amman, according to the Voice of Palestine and Amman radio.

Cease-Fire, Military Situation -- Beirut was relatively calm over the weekend despite intermittent shelling and sniping, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radio reports. The IDF spokesman accused the "terrorists" and the Syrians of violating the cease-fire and warned that the IDF will not tolerate such activity forever without reacting, Jerusalem television noted. Meanwhile, the Voice of Lebanon said Soviet experts have inspected Syrian equipment in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Nicosia Nonaligned Meeting -- The Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau conference held in Nicosia adopted a communique that called for the UN Security Council to impose comprehensive sanctions on Israel until it implements UN decisions and resolutions on Palestine, Nicosia radio reported. The communique also called for the nonaligned to impose sanctions on Israel; to hold an emergency session of the UN General Assembly before the end of August to study the Lebanese crisis; and for the United States to revise its policy on the issue. In the closing address to the meeting carried by Nicosia television, Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikolaos Rolandhis read a portion of the action program adopted by the nonaligned countries which, among other things, established an eight-member ministerial committee on the Palestinian problem to visit Lebanon and to keep in contact with the United Nations. The program called for a declaration supporting the Palestinians and PLO to be submitted to the upcoming Baghdad nonaligned meeting, and messages were sent to the presidents of Lebanon and Syria and the head of the PLO.

In a speech to the meeting reported by Damascus radio, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam called for a total, worldwide boycott of Israel, a UN resolution canceling its acceptance of Israel and an international trial of its leaders.

Egypt

Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha issued a 17 July decree releasing 453 detainees imprisoned under the emergency law, MENA reported. Those freed included the father of President Anwar as-Sadat's killer, Khalid al-Islambuli.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION TO BE DECIDED 'LATE JULY'

LD172118 Tehran IRNA in English 2009 GMT 17 Jul 82

["Leading Theologian Speaks on Assembly of Experts" -- IRNA headline]

[Text] Ahvaz, Jul 17, IRNA -- Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, a religious jurist of the Council of Guardians of the constitutional law and the director of the Islamic Revolutionary Committees, said Friday in Abadan, Khuzestan Province, that the Assembly of Experts would convene in late July to select the successor to the leadership. Visiting the Islamic Revolutionary Committees, Ayatollah Kani reaffirmed the Islamic combatants would overthrow the Iraqi regime so that no would-be aggressor would dare to trespass on the Islamic Republic's territory in the future.

MUSAVI DENIES MEDIATION SOUGHT; CABINET CHANGES

LD180050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Interview given by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi to a Central News Unit correspondent in Tehran prior to his departure for Algeria on 17 July -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Musavi, which countries do you intend to visit on this trip and what are your objectives?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One of the countries we will visit during this trip is the brother and friendly country of Algeria, following an official invitation from the Algerian Government. This invitation was extended a long time ago, and the dates for the visit were set at that time. The relations between our two countries on the basis of [worlds indistinct] and a defined and united strategy and the [words indistinct] in the regional scene. We hope that this trip will be beneficial to the broadening of our relations with the brotherly country of Algeria, especially since Algeria was one of the few countries with which we maintained friendly relations during the war. Of course, we now have a deeper understanding with the outside world. But since at one time we had many difficulties with respect to our relations with the world at large, we have valued our ties with Algeria, and Algeria has proved its sincerity in its relations with us.

Of course, during the past few days the mass media have been carrying reports about our trip, and I would like to clarify certain points in this respect. It has been said that Algeria is to mediate between Iran and Iraq. I would like to say that this is not true and is a fabrication concocted by the agencies. Obviously, the problems of and issues pertaining to the region will be discussed with our Algerian brothers, one of them being the Iraqi-imposed war; we will listen to the views of these brothers and explain our stance. But I deny that the trip is taking place because Algeria is to mediate. This is not true.

[Question] During the past few days we have seen our war with the Ba'thist regime of Iraq enter a new phase. Some of our towns have been bombed by the Iraqi Ba'thists. What measures have been taken to prevent such bombings?

[Answer] This is characteristic of a dying regime. When it has lost all hope, is desperate and is taking its last breaths, its commits such crimes. I believe that we should expect even greater tragedies, since nothing is beyond these madmen. I think the way to stop such actions is to speed up our offensive operations. We should deal the final blow to this rotten regime as soon as possible. I believe that the final day is approaching, with the help of God.

[Question] The question I am going to ask now has been repeatedly put to you in the past, and you have given specific replies to it every time, but now that the war situation is such that we are quite close to gaining our practical objectives and we have entered Iaaqi territory, the imperialists are trying to represent Iran as a force threatening the countries of the Persian Gulf region. Would you please tell us what the clear stance of our government is in this respect?

[Answer] We have announced this many times before. I remember that even when I was the minister of foreign affairs, our foreign policy under martyr Raja'i was to assure the small countries that Iran does not have its eyes on them. We have continued to follow this decisive, strong and resolute policy. We reiterate that we present no threat whatsoever to these countries and that it is in their interests not to be so enamoured of and dependent on imperialism and America and not to be influenced by their machinations. I believe these interests will be met by living by the side of a revolutionary, powerful and Islamic country which has no covetous intentions toward any of them.

The entire world knows that our entering Iraqi territory is, in fact, part of our defensive policy. Our land has always been threatened by shelling. Even now, despite receiving crushing blows, Saddam Husayn's regime has not abandoned its claims to be fighting an Al-Qadisiyan war [the first war between Iranians and Arabs at the dawn of Islam which Iran was defeated]. It is a dangerous element to the security of the region. Our action is a step toward establishing security in the region.

Once again, I would like to tell these countries not to feel at all threatened. In this respect, I would like to point out that some of these countries have come to realize this. We have seen positive responses from the UAE, which shows that it is assessing this question with more insight. But the decisions taken by some other countries do not show the same insight. I believe that the new realities occasioned by the attacks of our combatants will be imposed on them.

[Question] My last question is about the Cabinet. Mr Musavi, there are rumors about a Cabinet reshuffle.

[Answer] These are not rumors, but facts. We are going to have certain changes in the Cabinet. We will have three or four new posts and new faces in the Cabinet. Well, naturally, one of these new faces will fill the new post of the minister of Revolution Guards Corps. We are expecting the passing of a law to determine the status and parameters of this new post, so that we may proceed with establishing it. Apart from this, some of our brothers in other ministries wish to serve in other trenches. Then there is the issue of the physical condition of one of our brothers, for he is not physically up to the job. Having said that, it is natural that we should be thinking of making some changes in the Cabinet. We will deal with this issue in 1 or 2 weeks when these new faces are introduced.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ON CABINET CHANGES

LD181740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 82

[Text] The Cabinet, chaired by the interior minister, Nateq-Nuri, held a meeting today and reviewed the latest developments in Iran and in the world. In an interview afterwards, the government spokesman addressed our correspondent and explained the issues raised in today's session. He denied rumors concerning extensive changes in the Cabinet, saying that as the prime minister stated these changes do not involve more than three of four Cabinet ministers. The changes will take place at the request of the ministers themselves, something which will ultimately be announced by the prime minister himself. We now draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Tavakkoli, could you please tell us about the issues raised in today's Cabinet meeting?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A report was heard on the situation of our combatants on the battlefronts. [Passage indistinct]

[Question] My second question deals with the possible changes in the Cabinet. Could you please comment on the extent of these changes?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] the issue at stake is that one of our brothers asked to be transferred elsewhere. Then there is the question of another brother who is ill. I do not believe that the changes will involve more than three or four, as pointed out by Mr Musavi. However, the details of these changes will be announced by him. [end recording]

RAFSANJANI WARNS GULF STATES NOT TO ARM IRAQ

LD181506 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jul 82

[Address by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Majlis session on 18 July -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In connection with the Ramadan Operation launched recently and the watershed it will constitute in the history of the Islamic movement, I think the Majlis should use its platform to express a view for public knowledge.

As the esteemed deputies are aware, the centers of power and news in the world recently have expressed fresh concern over the regional developments and the move taken by our forces. This is to the extent that satellite communications equipment is being hired by foreign mass media for extensive periods in order to ask us for reports and news concerning the war and its aspects. What is distinct in the policy pursued by the Western media and the superpowers is that it is introducing the Islamic Republic of Iran as a military might and a new phenomenon in the region. This move and policy contains an element of truth, in acknowledging the reality which the Western media had in the past failed to confess and now are obliged to confess, an aspect also acknowledged by world nations. What is also distinct in the new policy pursued by the Western media is the wickedness behind the actions that they will be wanting to take against the Islamic Republic.

Sufficient explanations concerning the operations we have launched have been given in our communiques as well as remarks made by our great leader. First, our recent move is a continuation of our defensive actions, that is to say, the nature of the latest operations is within the context of the past defensive actions aimed at expelling the enemy from our territory. The whole world knows that our frontier cities of Khorramshahr, Abadan and other cities are still within the range of direct Iraqi shelling and each day we sustain a number of martyrs and injured in those cities and their surrounding areas. The whole world knows that Iran cannot possibly continue its economic moves without its huge port of Khorramshahr and a refinery such as Abadan. Our country will remain incomplete without reconstructing these two important cities as well as other war-stricken regions, so our move will be incomplete until the tasks of reconstruction are carried out.

Therefore, in order to bring these two cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan out of range of Iraqi artillery we had no choice but to take action, action which we launched after declaring our intention well in advance. After the bayt al-moqaddas operations we called on Saddam and his masters through speeches delivered by most of our country's officials, and gave him 2 months to stop shelling our civilians and to pay us reparations. Two months were sufficient had they wanted to pay us what was due to us. But Saddam assumed a plausible and sinless air and pretended to be a peace-loving person, but continued with his past crimes. Therefore, we have at present launched our operations as a defensive necessity.

But our second aim, which has been repeatedly declared, is that we have to collect our reparations. We have said on numerous occasions in the past that we are not the kind of people to wait behind the border and stretch our hand and ask for our rights. We shall not do that and we know we would not. We have no choice but to exert pressure and the pressure is nothing but military actions, which we have started and which were not secret.

The third point which again we have reiterated and have not tried to hide is the existence of an aggressive country [Iraq] which has inflicted bloodshed on the region and on Islamic countries. To defend themselves is also a right for Muslims and we consider such a task among our main duties as an Islamic government, which we will firmly pursue.

The fourth point which again we have declared in the past is to open the road to Jerusalem and to unify the eastern flank of war with Israel, which constitutes one of our strategic goals. As the imam remarked, the people of Iraq are now provided with an opportunity to free themselves. At the same time we have not kept it a secret that the destiny of the people of Iraq is important to us, and today we consider our right in this case is to stand next to the people of Iraq so they gain their rights and get rid of the Ba'th Party. These were the main aims of our policy in launching the war.

At the same time, what the superpowers are planning to dc is bound to be futile and, as we declared in the past from the same forum of the Majlis, today too we openly declare that we will not become a monstrous power in the region. We agree that we are a power, but we are a humane power. We have said repeatedly that we have no territorial claim over any country, including Iraq, and all our neighbors should rest assured that we will not be claiming from them anything within the context of (?disputed) territory.

We have told the small Persian Gulf states and again today we repeat that the Muslim and mighty Iran backs what is right in the region so there is no cause for their concern. Of course, if they take a wicked action then they should fear the consequences.

From now on, if we continue to witness the passing of trucks carrying arms to be later rained on our heads, then we will consider it our right to defend ourselves. But you should not involve yourselves any longer. We will forgive you if you deserve to be forgiven, which you do; therefore, do not involve yourselves, so you can live with us in peace and in an atmosphere of brotherhood.

You should also treat your people in a humane way. We have said this repeatedly before and we continue to say that the nature of our revolution is humane. You can see for yourselves we are the people whose artillery along the borders has all the Iraqi border regions under its direct range. Most of the Iraqi border cities and villages are today within the range of our artillery.

In return, the enemy has inflicted so many crimes on our civilians. The examples of which can be seen in the heroic Hamadan, in the heroic Khorramabad, heroic Bakhtaran and the heroic Ilam. The civilians were bombed on Jerusalem Day; the day our people were marching, the criminal Saddam committed a crime not even committed by Israel in Jerusalem. In fact, Saddam outstripped Israel; he conducted an action with extreme cruelty, the same action that the Israelis carried out with (?consideration). As a result of the latest Iraqi shellings and bombardment we have in recent weeks had hundreds of martyrs and thousands of injured now in hospital. In return, we refrained and silenced our artillery which could directly hit and destroy Basra and [word indistinct] and many other Iraqi cities.

Why? Because we are facing civilians and we will not take action against civilians. This is the humane aspect of our revolution and the Islamic Republic -- that is the manners of our enemies and this is our [word indistinct] at war. After the war we will naturally render even more kindness.

The Western world should know that their propaganda to create fear among the Persian Gulf states over the export of the Islamic revolution is not a propaganda initiated by them. We ourselves have declared that we support the spreading of the revolution. We have also defined the meaning of the export of revolution. We have the Islamic move, Islam is right for this region, and Islam must rule the region. This is a reality which the world has acknowledged.

These days you witnessed that in spite of all counteractions against the imam's Jerusalem Day proposal, the day was marked, even in such nests of corruption as Washington, Paris and England, by mass demonstrations by the liberated Muslim inhabitants of those cities. This was in spite of police prevention. Jerusalem Day was also marked in India, Bangladesh, Syria, war-stricken Beirut, Ba'labakk and other places in the world. You have heard the reports concerning these demonstrations, an acknowledgement of imam's viewpoint. This is what we mean by export of revolution. The countries of the world have accepted Islam's move and have realized that this move is a humane and Islamic one. This is what we mean by export of the revolution -- we shall never conquer any country with the use of force, army and corps unless it is a country which has invaded us -- in which case, such an action would be a right given us by the world.

We once again warn the UN and all other international bodies. These bodies who have so far remained indifferent should not buy themselves any more disgrace. They should not take advantage of our kindness because we ignored their 2 years of indifference over the crimes inflicted on us. We shall stand firm to defend our rights and we are not prepared to be blackmailed by empty threats, especially since your masters such as the United States and others were not able to do anything in the past. Peace be upon you.

INTERNATIONAL JERUSALEM DAY MARKED IN TEHRAN

Khomeyni Message

LD161756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1123 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Message by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni at 16 July Jerusalem Day rally at Tehran University -- read by Ahmad Khomeyni]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We are from God and to Him we return. [Koranic verse]

On the anniversary of Jerusalem Day this year we are going through the most sorrowful and painful days and we are putting behind us the saddest and most tragic periods. This sorrow is not only because of the defenseless and innocent martyrs of oppressed Lebanon; this sadness and tragedy is not only because of the extensive attack launched by criminal Israel, using cluster bombs and incendiary bombs on the Arab and Muslim citizens of Beirut, resulting in martyrdom or injury to thousands of old and young people, women, men, children, all innocent and defenseless; and it is not only because of the sinister plans of the arch-criminal United States aimed at (?defeating) Islam in Iran and in other countries; and not only for the material and moral help given by Egypt, Jordan and others of their kind to the unbridled criminals Begin and Saddam -- who boast of savage and criminal natures and whose material life depends on aggression against the rights of nations and against the oppressed of the world.

Oppressing and crushing the oppressed nations is a cause for pride for them; and not only the merciless aggression launched by 'Aflaqi Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'thist Party on the Islamic state of Iran, killing of thousands of young children and youths, old women and old men, reducing to rubble the prosperous and green cities of Iran inhabited by Arabs and Persians. Such a party, such a (?wicked) party, could not tolerate Islam; its plan is to overthrow Islam and its supporters.

The tragedy, sorrow, sadness and pain stem from Muslims being plagued by such governments who are subservient to and intimidated by the U.S. superpowers and who blindly obey the orders of the enemies of Islam and the Muslims. These people used to make excuses for opposing the Islamic Republic and for their military arms, material and moral assistance to Saddam who deems Islam as his enemy. They used to raise the issue of Arab soil, contrary to the teaching of Islam and of the glorious Koran. In the propaganda (?media) and in the press serving the superpowers they used to resort to the obvious lie of giving as an excuse Israel's so-called support for Iran.

But today, when Israel has attacked an Arab country and is dragging Muslims through blood and dust, what excuse is there for their deadly silence? What excuse could they have in the presence of Almighty God and the Islamic nations for their help to Israel and its nefarious masters? What excuse could they have for following the abject Camp David proposal and the Fahd plan? What excuse could they have for their connivance with these professional and blood-thirsty criminals?

Could it be because the United States has changed from the previous United States, with whom they have falsely accused us of conniving? Or could it be that Israel has changed from the Israel which, under the pretext of giving us weapons, hastened to help Saddam and to embark on enmity against us in order to save the 'Aflaqist Ba'thist Party?

O God, the Muslims in the region are slighted by such liars just as their master, 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, was beset with hypocrites who were superficially benevolent people and by whose hands he was martyred and thereby found salvation from his tribulations!

O merciful God, Islam today is blighted by hypocrites more criminal than the [word indistinct] who are crushing Islam in the name of Islam, and who are conniving with the enemies of Islam in the name of Islam in order to plunder the riches of the oppressed and deprived nations and to fetter the free among the nations!

O God, these ignorant politicians are bearing the burden of Israeli indignity in order to prolong their rule over Muslim nations for a few more days! O God, these ignorant governments, despite having all the capabilities for scoring victory over the superpowers, are approving the crimes of the United States and Israel. In order to consolidate the foundations of blasphemy, they cannot tell the difference between day and night! O merciful God, save the oppressed Muslim people from the claws of these people!

But what should one do now? Could marches, shouts, being beside oneself with rage because of the enemies of Islam and of the world oppressed be sufficient? Or do these things constitute a means to [words indistinct]? The governments of the region and the agents of the colonialists and the oppressors do not tolerate even these shouts; rest assured they would stifle these shouts in the throats of the oppressed and deprived.

These very people who are already opposing the cry of the oppressed, who once every year seek the very zenith of their aspirations, who shout and moan, who are rising in opposition in a forum whose foundations were based on political issues [as heard], they will stifle by all possible means the angry shouts of the Muslims caling for the liberation of Jerusalem.

Dear Islam and its illustrious prophet and the martyr of its path, who was dragged in blood and dust in order to serve the cause of the deprived on that blessed holy night, where should they voice this complaint that the oppressors in the Islamic countries are saying: Bear your pain and suffering, but do not complain; be crushed under the tortures of the United States and filthy Israel and other powers, but never say a word! The sorrows are great, but what is one to do?

The Iranian nation, following the noble Koran and great Islam, has found the remedy. It overthrew the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime, after its cries and strikes; it used fists and teeth against the tanks and machineguns; it toppled [as heard] the criminal Saddam and his polytheistic party with its faith and in the name of God; it dragged in the dust the self-opinionated Saddam who used to boast of being a leading general of the battle of Qadisiyah; it nipped in the bud all the plots, with God's guidance.

So now, too, it will not rest until it translates into action what it asked from the very first day: reparations from and punishment for the criminal. It does not consider the resolutions of the Security Council and of the worthless organizations as anything other than scraps of paper which serve those with a veto.

Those people who, despite all their shouts and baseless propaganda, have bowed in obeisance to the Zionists and who have embarked on setting up meetings and issuing resolutions in order to strengthen the foundations of the Zionists' government, and those subservient to them such as Saddam who is on the brink of a disgraceful death -- could you see Iran's Government, which relies on God and the great Iranian nation, being afraid of such (?scraps of paper)? A nation which has already tasted martyrdom, which is following its lord the prince of the faithful and his illustrious children, who deemed martyrdom as a great honor and who raised the cry of "(?I die) by the lord of Ka'baj at the scene of martyrdom and on the battlefield," does not fear organizations which are subservient to the superpowers. A nation which has expelled the U.S. superpower in disgrace from the land of God's chosen one -- may our lives be sacrificed for his coming -- and which has dragged its oil and riches from its own throat, does not fear the empty drums of America's concocted organizations.

This nation and the government following its commands, as they have repeatedly announced, will retrieve their lawful demands from Saddam and his 'Aflaqist party. In order to achieve their lawful right they will resort to any measure, whatever that may be!

As for the duty of the nations on the eve of Jerusalem Day and the anniversary of the martyrdom of the great man of human history [Imam 'Ali], this duty is to take part in rallies and marches and to seriously demand that their governments should use their military power and the oil weapon in order to confront the United States and Israel. And if they do not heed this demand and if they support criminal Israel -- which is threatening the entire region and even the two holy places, and already the depth of its demands have become manifest -- the nations should force them to act by pressure, strikes and threats.

At a time when Islam and its holy places are being subjected to threat and aggression, no Muslim can remain indifferent. What the region's governments are doing in reaction against Israel's aggression against Muslim homelands, resulting in shedding the blood of innocent and defenseless Muslims, is nothing but empty and compromising words. What is even more tragic is that they appeal to America, the real criminal, for what Israel is doing to them. This means, in fact, seeking refuge with the dragon for fear of the snake. Despite having the means of confrontation they are, nevertheless, unprepared to even utter a violent word of a threat. Consequently, everyone should prepare themselves for elimination and annihilation, (?or if they wish to continue) their lives, they should prepare themselves for subjection to any humiliation.

As it has already declared, Iran cannot take any effective measures except by crossing Iraq and deposing the governing Ba'th Party. Having met its legal obligations, Iran is quite prepared to volunteer its services for cooperation -- more than it is doing now -- with other Muslims, particularly Arab nations and governments, in the battle against Israel. Iran is prepared, as one of the big Muslim governments of the region, to cooperate with other powers of the region in the battle against Israel in a much more crushing manner than it is doing now. However, God forbid, if the situation and status of Islamic and Arab countries as well as the region's government continue as they are -- namely, submitting to, compromising and supporting the main enemy, and providing financial and psychological assistance to dependent governments -- then combative Iran is justified before Almighty God in seeking assistance from Islamic nations, minus their governments. Once they respond to this appeal, then Iran will resort to more effective and serious measures.

I advise the Palestinian leaders to abandon their comings and goings and -- relying on Almighty God and the Palestinian people, as well as their own weapons -- continue their battle against Israel to the death; because these comings and goings will result in the combative nations losing faith in you. You must rest assured that neither West nor East will be of any use to you. Have faith in God, rely on your weapons and continue your battle against Israel just like the people and Armed Forces of Iran, who do not rely on powers and superpowers; who rely on God Almighty and His boundless power and who will not abandon their weapons until their legitimate demands are met.

O God, I turn to you, seeing such procrastination, indifference, ambition and [word indistinct] throughout the Islamic world. O God, I appeal to you for your assistance for the sake of the victory of Islam and of the oppressed peoples of the world; for the sake of oppressed people enslaved by the oppressors; for the sake of the victory of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic over the misled Ba'thist Saddamite. May God bless you all.

Musavi Speech

LD161700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi at Jerusalem Day rally at Tehran University on 16 July -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I start by offering regards and greetings to our self-sacrificing combatants who are defending the borders of Islam. Glory to those who, by sacrificing their blood, are opening new borders for Muslims of the world and are preparing the ground for an overall attack by all Muslims against the regime occupying Jerusalem. Peace and glory to the great leader of the revolution and the leader of the world oppressed. Glory to you, the great nation, a nation which is looking and fixing its gaze to further heights despite all the conspiracies and the crimes committed by the arrogant governments against you, and despite your own problems. You are gazing at far away places, at the vast borders of the world of Islam and at dear Jerusalem.

In order to understand the circumstances in which we are honoring this day and in order to follow developments since (?2 years) ago, when the leader of the revolution declared this auspicious day as Jerusalem Day and to understand why we are talking about the liberation of Jerusalem at a time when on our western and southern borders we are engaged in war with a tyrannical enemy, we have to glance at the conspiracies hatched among Muslim nations by the arrogant powers. It is impossible to appreciate the greatness of this decision and this action without a proper evaluation of these conspiracies. Why does our nation declare a Jerusalem Day and invite all Muslims of the world to honor this day? What is our aim? What are we fighting for? In what direction are we moving? What is our aim in raising this question?

If we look at the political arena of the Islamic countries, we will see that the scope of the American plots has widened further. On the one hand we find an axis in North Africa, where Egypt is implementing America's filthy policy of recruiting agent countries in line with the U.S. policy of splitting the united ranks of the Muslims and the Muslim Arabs. On that axis Egypt is not only a base for America, it is also trying to dominate the Islamic and African countries. Around this main axis, we find Morocco, Sudan and other reactionary countries of that region, gathering round and strengthening the axis. It seems that this axis is one of the foundations of American hegemonism and one of the foundations on which American policy rests in the world of Islam.

During the past few years, since the era of the shah's regime, America has tried hard to strengthen this axis. At one time, during the shah's period, there was talk of an axis comprising Israel, Egypt and Iran. American policy toward Egypt not only has not changed since that time, rather it has advanced further. Several months ago, or perhaps 1 month ago, America formed an agreement for the construction of a base in Morocco. Right now, the baseless government of Ja'far Numayri is kept in power by America and is protected from the great wave of the Islamic revolution, from the great movement of the millions-strong masses. They are afraid of this wave and this movement, and have thus sought refuge under the wings of domination by the fascist government of Begin. They want to save themselves and graft themselves to the body of the 1 billion Muslims in the world. The progressive countries of North Africa and the Middle East are threatened by these regimes. The unblessed [na-mubarak] regime of Husni Mubarak and his policies are threatening the borders of Libya, Algeria and other governments which refuse to be servants to America.

Meanwhile, America is trying to create another axis in the Persian Gulf, an axis which will gather other reactionary countries around itself, an axis strengthened with the unstinting support of America and the AWACS so as to become a gendarme of the region, an axis which is aimed at absorbing all the (?reactionary) governments of the region, an axis which is trying to use its petrodollars to strengthen American governments in the region and throughout the Islamic world. This axis is trying to encourage the expansion of an Islam in line with American policy. Islam cannot be in line with America. An (?American) and Saudi Islam would not be a real Islam; such an Islam would be in line with the ideology of Satan.

However, the most important axis of U.S. policy in the region is Israel. If we look we can see that all American adventures, all its targets and all the moves that it intends to follow in the region and among all the Islamic countries rest on a three-legged stool made up of Israel, Egypt and Fahd in the Persian Gulf. During the past year, America has tried very hard to bring these three axes closer together. It has tried to link them together and to create a real joint among them. The Fahd plan was actually aimed at strengthening this tripod of American power among the Islamic countries. We can see that Jordan has joined this (?axis). Other reactionary countries of the region have also gathered around it. Saddam's regime is reinforced by this axis, with its troops, weapons and AWACS.

Still, the problem would have been different if there were only American conspiracies in the Islamic countries. That is why Israel is following some objectives independently for itself. It has certain objectives related to the occupation of Muslim territories, in its attempt to create a Christian government in Lebanon. It is trying to show the world today that the Muslims' struggle against Israel is rooted in religion. It is pretending that this struggle is not against Judaism alone, but that it is also against Christianity. That is, Israel is trying to misrepresent the high aspirations of the Muslim nations for the destruction of Zionism.

We can see today that there are rumors about the Phalangists taking power in Lebanon. Israel is trying to protect itself by creating puppet and subservient government around itself. Once there was Jordan and Egypt. Today Lebanon is going to be added to them; and perhaps tomorrow, through pressure, military invasion or political conspiracies, they might try to bring Syria into this circle. Thus Israel will create a circle of affiliated countries around itself to protect it from the great front of the Muslims throughout the world. The cooperation between our government and Syria is (?mainly) for this purpose and is aimed at neutralizing this plot.

The Soviet Union is also harvesting some benefit in the midst of all this. On the one hand, with its bloody military presence in Afghanistan it gives the best excuse to America for its military presence in the Indian Ocean and the reactionary and American countries of the region. All these countries and all these puppet governments, constantly talk of the danger of communism and the Soviet threat. They justify the American presence by referring to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

At the same time, through its lack of decisiveness toward Israel, the USSR is trying to attract those countries which are helpless in their struggle against Israel and those nations which are pleading despair in their struggle against the Zionists; although it cannot be decisive against Israel, nevertheless it has set a trap. [sentence as heard] We have not seen any trap more deceitful than this. It is a disgrace to Islam.

Under such circumstances, our country appeared like a spiritual and divine superpower and endangered all these calculations, all these plans and all these conspiracies.

The problem of Israel and the confrontation of Israel means that the authoritarian governments which are dependent on the West and East will have to stand on their own feet. The Jerusalem Day declaration that all Muslims must take to the streets on a specified day and shout "Death to Israel, death to America" will expose the subservient governments' secret to their peoples.

It will distinguish good from evil; it will enable nations to realise the filthy nature of their (?governments), or it will force those governments to draw close to the sacred Islamic aspirations and the sacred aspirations of their own peoples. Otherwise, they would have to take a clear stand against their own nations. (?This is why) all the reactionary governments which are subservient to America are afraid of such a day. Those governments are fully aware that should the day come when 1 billion Muslims take to the streets and simply shout "Death to America, death to Israel" then both America and Israel would be annihilated.

The problem of fighting the occupying Jerusalem regime is not a national one, nor is it a problem confined to the Arab world. It is a front as extensive as the size of all the Islamic countries. Only when all Muslims unite can this germ be eliminated; only when all are motivated by Islam and the idea of closer contact with God throughout this extensive front of invasion against American interests and Israel can this be achieved. This cannot be a merely regional invasion, however.

The final point is the issue of the leadership of this movement. A glance at the past shows that a fight against colonialism and, during the recent decades, the fight against Israel has been led by certain individuals in the Islamic world who were dependent on the West or the East or by people who, to some degree, were influenced by Western or Eastern culture. Now the leadership of this movement is being assumed by a man who has sprang from the heart of the ideology, the heart of Islam and the heart of the oppressed masses of the people. This time it is the imam of the nation who is assuming the leadership of the fight against Israel and America. This leadership cannot be confined only within the limited boundaries of our country. This leadership relies on the Koran and Islam; it does not rely on any power in the world, rather it relies on God. That is why our nation's slogan and prayer in connection with the preservation of this leadership are not simply nationalistic ones. They are not confined only to our country, rather the slogan is one which is in the service of man; it is a slogan imbedded in the conscience of all world Muslims and oppressed peoples. The prayer is "O God, O God, preserve Khomeyni until the mahdi's revolution is accomplished."

Rally Issues Resolution

LD161424 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran July 16 IRNA -- On the occasion of International Al-Quds Day (last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan coinciding with July 16 this year) massive demonstrations were held throughout the country, in which Iranian Muslims severely condemned the Zionist regime and its aggressive policy.

The demonstrators in Tehran carried pictures of the (?leader) of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, as well as of Ayatollah Montazeri and other officials of the Islamic Republic and shouted slogans against the Al-Quds occupier regime and the aggressor Army of Iraq. In their slogans the marchers also called on Muslims throughout the world to rise up and liberate Al-Quds (Jerusalem).

In a resolution read to the crowd gathered at Tehran University, it was said that the annihilation of the Zionist regime was indeed one of the main objectives of the Islamic revolution of Iran. It further supported the formation of a Palestinian state in Bayt al-Moqaddas (Jerusalem) and the determining of their fate by themselves.

The resolution pointed out that the Iranian Muslim nation considered the war with the Ba'thist regime of Iraq not separate from the struggle against the Zionist regime, and stressed that the only path for the liberation of Al-Quds was through Karbala' (in Iraq). As soon as the Iraqi imposed war was put an end to, added the resolution, the Islamic Republic would deploy all its resources and strength in the battlefronts of Islam against the Zionists.

YAZDI ON LIBERATING JERUSALEM THROUGH IRAQ

GF161202 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Arabic sermon delivered at Tehran University by acting Friday Imam Mohammad Yazdi on 16 July -- live]

[Excerpts] Don't the experiences of history show that if tyrants shed the blood of the oppressed and if the oppressed rebel, blood will defeat the swords? Shouldn't we benefit from the present experiences of Iran, where Islam is reborn and where Islamic Iran, by upholding the cause of God through the orders of the leader of revolution, is capable of retaliating against the enemies and aborting all treacherous plans being hatched by great and small devils? How long will we continue to watch the secret machinations of expansionists and their stooges? How long will the superpowers, the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain, design the destinies of Muslims through Saddam, Shah Husayn, Mubarak the unblessed, Begin and the like? O Muslim brothers and sisters, we are sure that beloved Jerusalem will be liberated through our unity and (?our economy). By closing our ranks and joining together, our Muslim peoples can dispel the oppression of the Zionists. We believe that the liberation of Jerusalem will be achieved through liberating Iraq, the shackled. In defense of our legitimate rights, Islam and Muslims, we will continue the war imposed by Iraq until the last phase, until we receive the last dirham for the losses we have sustained, and until we eliminate the aggressor and succor the Iraqi people. O homeless Iraqis, we heard you cry out during the week of Iraq, when you held demonstrations and gatherings in Iran's cities. We will respond to your demands, God willing.

Is it known to you that the UN Security Council's resolution, which contradicted the previous resolutions for the sake of arrogant power, was not [words indistinct]? How can a council controlled by tyrants who abuse the right of veto be in favor of the oppressed and of righteousness? Iran's representative did not attend the meeting [of the council] in order to let the world realize that the resolution of this council is illegitimate. Therefore, what is the value of resolutions instigated by the masters and accomplices -- resolutions upon which everyone agrees beforehand? We will advance until we succor Muslims from the yokes of servility, until we liberate Jerusalem from the defilement of the tyrants of the occupying Zionist entity, and until we liberate Iraq from the infidel Ba'th Party. We are certain that you will remain as you were with us, O Muslims, and that the opposing tyrant governments will fall sooner or later. "If you support the cause of God, He supports you and gives you footing." [Koranic verse]

VELAYATI INTERVIEWED AFTER RETURN FROM NICOSIA

LD170446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Mr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, returned to Tehran last night after taking part in the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries held in Cyprus. On his return, he gave an interview to an IRNA correspondent at the airport in which he stressed the need for an all-round struggle against the usurping Zionists and said: As we have repeatedly announced, fighting Zionism and the regime occupying Jerusalem should not be limited to the political dimension. We believe that political struggle is necessary but not enough and that an extended political, propaganda and military struggle against the Satans of the world, led by the arch-Satan America and its agents in the region, is called for.

Referring to the behavior of the Islamic revolution toward the Zionist regime and its boss, the United States, Mr Velayati said: For instance, from the political point of view, one can celebrate Jerusalem Day, which is the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan. This year, like last year, it was marked by ceremonies, and delegations were sent to Islamic countries to invite nations and governments to take a more active part in marking it. From the military point of view, we are the only country which sent volunteers and regular forces to Syria and Lebanon after the aggression by the regime occupying Palestine against Lebanon. These forces are now fighting the Zionists.

From the political point of view, we took part in the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly in connection with the illegal annexation of the Golan Heights. We also took part in the session of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonaligned foreign ministers which was held at the request of Yasir 'Arafat and with the approval of Fidel Castro.

SAYYAD SHIRAZI ON AIMS OF ADVANCE IN IRAQ

LD182156 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 18 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 18, (IRNA) -- "Our attention and target is him (Iraqi President Saddam Husayn)...and also to find an overland route to reach Al-Quds," said Colonel Sayyad Shirazi in an interview with the daily newspaper ETTELA'AT today.

He said that to gain Iran's rights Iran might have not only to besiege Basra but also "it may pull us to move towards Baghdad," he said.

In his first major interview with the press since the beginning of the Ramadan Operation, Colonel Shirazi said that until Saddam Husayn was punished, the Islamic forces would continue to go after him.

"When he is gone and destroyed," he said, "then our presence in a brother country like that of the Muslim people of Iraq would cease to have any meaning." The commander of the ground forces said that the Islamic forces felt responsible to give an answer to the martyrs of the Iraqi imposed war, to get exact retribution for the relatives they left behind and for all the destruction and more than two million refugees caused by Saddam's imposed war.

Colonel Shirazi added that today the Islamic Republic had proven to the world that none of the governments dependent on the East or West would recognise its rights against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. "We are firmly standing," he said, "and we want to get our rights from the enemy."

Asked about the advances of the Iranian fighters since the beginning of the Ramadan offensive, Shirazi said that the operation had progressed "relatively well" and the enemy morale was very low. In contrast he said that the Islamic forces were in very high spirits despite the extreme hot weather in the region and that they were eager to fight the enemy. He said that it would not take long before the Islamic fighters won their awaited victory and he said that the Iraqi regime would receive a stronger blow "in the next few days."

"They thought that we were only dependent on modern capabilities and equipment for war, Colonel Shirazi said, adding that the key to the victory of the Islamic forces was not only their material capabilities but moreover the spiritual zeal created in the Iranian people. On the other hand, he added that the enemy had unwittingly become the best military supplier of the Iranian forces in abandoning their arms.

On the help and support of other regional countries to Iraq he said that King Husayn of Jordan had been acting more than others out of fear of his own future. "Before we went after him (King Husayn), he came after us," he said, "but they saw that no one was able to resist this thundering force (the Islamic forces) and they jumped back a step."

He said that the Islamic Republic was not worried whether the reactionary countries of the region might deploy their forces against Iran, because he said "to win our rights we have made our continuation of the struggle a principle. No power is able to stop us from going (forward) and with the help of God, as He has promised, we will be victorious."

MATERIALS CONCERNING RAMADAN OPERATION

Joint Staff Communique 978

LD151810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jul 82

[Communique No 978 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In is exalted name. With the advent of the fourth year of commemorating International Jerusalem Day, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue their ceaseless battle against the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of the 'Aflaqite Saddam. With God's help and with the cooperation of the oppressed Iraqi people, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic will destroy the criminal and falling regime of the mercenary Ba'thist by crossing the Karbala, this victory bridge to Al-Quds. They will be moving toward the destruction of the regime occupying Jerusalem and the liberation of beloved Palestine.

Following the extensive Operation Ramadan and the successes achieved in the country's southern operational areas, the ever-victorious combatants of the army of monotheism are continuing their efforts to route the enemies of Islam in the west of the country.

In the past 24 hours, exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued between our forces and Saddam's servicemen on the Meymak front. Opening fire on the enemy positions, the combatants of Islam inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi soldiers in this area.

Exchanges of fire also continued in the Marivan area. Opening artillery fire, our courageous combatants destroyed two vehicles carrying Iraqi servicemen in the Biarreh area; they also inflicted many losses on the Biarreh garrison.

The mercenary enemy, fearing the attacks of our combatants in the country's western operational areas and in order to reduce the vulnerability of his forces, is increasing his construction activities. His forces are building and extending minefields, consolidating positions and digging trenches.

The enemy's air operations have increased considerably in the past 24 hours. Air raids have mostly been carried out on the residential areas of cities and in the foul manner of the Ba'thist regime. In addition to the four Iraqi aircraft which were shot down yesterday in the southern area of the country, one intruding enemy aircraft was shot down by our antiaircraft batteries at 0740 yesterday morning in the Ilam region and another at 1430 on the same day in the Abadan region. The number of downed enemy aircraft in the past day is therefore six.

Furthermore, yesterday afternoon fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran based in the southern region managed to bomb a Saddamist assembly center in the Al-Qurnah to Nashwah direction. The aircraft returned safely to their bases. This afternoon the enemy's assembly point south of Kushk was bombed by our fighter aircraft; losses and casualties were inflicted upon the Saddamist mercenaries.

Yesterday Saddam's army shelled residential areas of Abadan with long-range weapons; as a result, several residential units caught fire and were destroyed.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Fighting in Saybah Region

LD161048 Tehran IRNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] Abadan, 16 Jul (IRNA) -- Islamic committees guards in Abadan last night and today killed 15 Saddamists in the region of Saybah, Iraq and destroyed a personnel carrier with enemy troops, 8 trenches, 4 foxholes and 2 machinegun positions. They also paralyzed the movement of the enemy on the Saybah-Sayhan road.

On the other hand, the Islamic Gendarmerie forces killed 10 Saddamists across the Arvand Rud, destroyed a number of trenches and foxholes and paralyzed enemy movement on the Basra-Al-Faw road.

Six of our citizens were injured in Abadan as a result of long-range enemy shelling of this steadfast city.

Iraqis Bomb Eslamabad

LD161054 Tehran IRNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] The west of the country, 16 Jul (IRNA) -- A report from our correspondent in Ilam says that aircraft of the Saddamist enemy flew twice over Ilam: first at 0940 today and then at 1025, but they could not take any aggressive action because our air defense drove them off.

A report from our correspondent in Bakhtaran says that aircraft of the Saddamist enemy bombed the city of Eslamabad in the Bakhtaran district, at 1115 today. So far, 2 martyrs have been taken out of the ruins and some 30 injured have been taken to the hospital. A school has been completely destroyed.

Iraqi Operation 'Crushed'

LD161159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit reporter in Bakhtaran, the fighters of Islam last night crushed a futile operation by the aggressive enemy in the Qasr-e Shirin region. According to a report from the Central News Unit, during this clash, which was repulsed by the heroism of the fighters of Islam, the aggressive enemy was forced to flee, suffering heavy losses and leaving behind a number of dead or injured. In this clash, the brave forces of Islam also succeeded in capturing many of those misled by the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq.

Hamadan Bombed

LD161245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent from Hamadan, at 0935 this morning while the steadfast and militant people of Hamadan, along with the rest of their compatriots, were marching in the streets of that city on the occasion of International Jerusalem Day, aggressive fighter planes of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq, flying high in retaliation for their recent defeats at the hands of the forces of Islam, bombed two districts in the city of Hamadan. As a result of this crime by American mercenaries, a number of innocent people were killed or wounded and a number of residential areas in the city were damaged. According to the same report, at this moment relief operations to dig out those killed or wounded by this savage crime of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq are still continuing. The number killed in this frightful crime is 30 and more than 200 wounded have been taken to hospitals.

According to an IRNA report at 1137 this morning, aggressive enemy planes once again attacked Hamadan and bombed the city. Also, according to IRNA, the aggressive planes of Iraq's defeated armed forces at 0930 and 0955 today violated the airspace of Ilam from an extreme altitude, but before they were able to do anything, they met with timely fire by antiaircraft guns and were forced to flee.

According to the Central News Unit and IRNA, enemy planes in the past 24 hours repeatedly flew over Ilam to bomb residential areas and kill the innocent people of that town. They were forced to flee, however, as a result of the timely antiaircraft of the fighters of Islam. The mercenary pilots of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq had to return without carrying out their missions.

Another IRNA report says that aggressive Iraqi planes continue their repeated violations of the airspace of Abadan. Last night and today they many times violated Abadan's airspace in order to bomb residential areas. At 1000 this morning aggressive Iraqi forces attacked Bakhtaran but the antiaircraft fire of the ground forces stopped them from doing anything.

Journalists Invited to Hamadan

LD161824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] According to the latest reports announced by the managing director of Hamadan Province's health center, the number of martyrs from the bombing of Hamadan's residential districts has reached 73.

According to the Central News Unit, in connection with the bombing of Hamadan's residential districts by aircraft of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime, the governor general of Hamadan has announced 3 days of mourning in this city. In a message sent by the governor general, while offering condolences and congratulations to the holy imam of the era -- may God hasten his lofty return -- and to Imam Khomeyni and the Muslim people of Iran, all domestic and foreign correspondents have been invited to visit Hamadan during the 3 days of mourning, starting tomorrow, Saturday, 17 July 1982, to view the crimes committed by Saddam.

Battle Successes

LD161828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] According to a report received from Karbala' operational headquarters, following their extensive Ramadan Operation and the convulsive attempts by the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi Army aimed at avenging their heavy defeat by retaking the lost positions and fortifications, the joint operational command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Army of the Islamic Republic launched a series of operations yesterday and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the mercenary enemy.

Having inflicted these losses and casualties, amounting to the smashing of one tank battalion and one infantry battalion, the destruction of 74 enemy tanks and personnel carriers and the inflicting of over 300 casualties among the Ba'thist aggressors, the Islamic forces this morning succeeded in continuing their operations and, having inflicted a heavy defeat on the enemy, completely destroyed 56 enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers. They also killed or wounded more than 200 enemy troops. As a result, the total number of destroyed enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers reached 130. As for the enemy casualties, they exceed 800. Moreover, in the course of this latest confrontation, the Islamic warriors succeeded in seizing 11 enemy tanks intact. The destroyed enemy tanks include a great many sophisticated T-72 tanks.

At the end of this battle, the Islamic warriors captured a large number of enemy troops.

Bushehr Red Alert

GF170907 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 0626 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] This is Bushehr, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: Please pay attention. The siren you are about to hear indicates that an air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

Operations in Iraq

LD170848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0712 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Unscheduled report]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a communique from the Karbala' central headquarters:

According to a report which has reached us from the Karbala' headquarters, the command staff of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Islam's self-sacrificing forces, shouting "God is great," last night embarked on a series of demolition operations on two operational axes inside Iraqi territory west of the southern borders of the Islamic homeland in the regions where the duped Saddamist forces are deployed.

During these operations, Islam's combatants succeeded in infiltrating enemy forces, in mopping up a vast area of their deployment on Iraqi soil, in destroying large numbers of the Saddamist army's tanks and armoured vehicles and in (?capturing) more enemy servicemen.

A detailed report on the operations carried out last night by the combatants of the Islamic army will be brought to the attention of our martyr-nurturing, revolutionary nation.

Musavi on Air Raids

LD170950 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran, July 17 (IRNA) -- Prime Minister Musavi, in the wake of the bombing of Hamadan, Khorramabad, Bakhtaran, Ilam and Eslamabad, by the Ba'thist air force, issued an announcement Friday.

In his message, the prime minister said that now, with Saddam's forces unable to confront the Iranian combatants on the battlefield, they target non-military and residential areas. But the enemy did not realise that these actions strengthen the resolve of the Muslim nation in its struggle.

Today millions of Muslims inside and outside the country were watching and the whole nation thanked God and praised the stricken Iranians [word indistinct] incomparable struggle against this crime of the American backed tyrant in Baghdad.

The prime minister said the Iranian combatants would not ignore these actions and would take revenge directly from this savage regime. The bombing of Hamadan, Khorramabad, Bakhtaran, Ilam, Eslamabad and other cities and villages in the west and south of the country indicated the resilience and will of Iran and the end of the criminal Saddam.

The prime minister then expressed his condolences and congratulations to the nation and said that Iran would continue its armed struggle until the fulfillment of the battle cry "War until victory".

Iraqi Defeat North of Basra

LD171110 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] Ahvaz, July 16, IRNA -- The Iraqi 10th Guard Brigade known as the "Liberation Brigade" sustained a heavy defeat Thursday midnight in one of the most vast attempted counter-offensives of the enemy north of Basra between Zeil and an Iraqi fish hatchery.

The enemy launched this counter-offensive using its 30th Armoured and 10th Guard Brigades north of Basra but was countered by the resistance of the Islamic defenders. During these operations, which continued in some parts in hand to hand fighting, 500 Iraqis were killed, 55 tanks and 20 armored personnel carriers were destroyed and the enemy withdrew, sustaining heavy personnel and equipment losses.

The enemy launched another counter-offensive today north of Basra but was forced to retreat suffering the loss of 15 more tanks and personnel carriers. Three tanks and one personnel carrier were seized undamaged.

The Islamic combatants have taken the initiative presently and all movements of the enemy around the Zeil outpost of Iraq are being suppressed by the Islamic defenders.

Joint Communique 5

LD171146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1045 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Joint Communique No 5 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic or Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the name of God, the crusher of tyrants. Mohammad, the prophet of God, and those who are with him are harsh with the enemy but merciful among themselves. [Koranic verse]

Dear Islam: Your self-sacrificing sons, with their acts of self-immolation, continue to strive and work for your glory and pride.

Heroic and combatant nation: Your heroic sons, continuing the Ramadan Operation, launched an assault at the heart of the positions of the Zionist, Ba'thist enemy inside Iraqi soil at 2100 last night with the aim of destroying and mopping up the aggressive forces. During this heroic battle, the sons of Islam destroyed 2 tank battalions, 77 tanks and armored personnel carriers and 30 vehicles of the Saddamists. Also during these heroic operations the heroes of the Islamic corps captured 12 tanks of the Ba'thist Saddamists intact. One aircraft of the aggressive enemy was shot down in the operational zone in the south.

During the operations carried out last night by the combatants of Islam, more than 700 enemy troops were killed or wounded. Among the enemy killed were a colonel in command of a brigade, two majors and six other officers of the Iraqi Army.

During the extensive battles involving Islam's self-sacrificing troops, another group of the dupes of the Zionist, Ba'thist Iraqi Army was captured by the forces of Islam, bringing nearer the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of occupying Zionism. With help from God, victory is near.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iranian Reinforcements

LD171400 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, following the command issued by Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the armed forces, regarding the presence of Muslim combatants in the war against the mercenaries of the Ba'thist Zionist regime of Iraq, another group of combatants connected with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from the Mohammad Rasul Allah Brigade has been sent to the battlefronts.

Captured Officer Interviewed

GF171455 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit's correspondent, reporting from the fronts of right against wrong, the fighters of Islam, in continuation of the Ramadan Operation codenamed "O lord of the ages, save me," attacked the defensive lines of the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy last night and inflicted heavy damage and casualties on the enemy in breaking these lines. According to this report, the forces of Islam penetrated the enemy lines by around 10 km and destroyed over 78 tanks and 30 vehicles of the Ba'thist aggressors. The Islamic zealots also captured 12 of their tanks intact. In the operations, a large number of the Iraqi mercenaries were killed and many more were wounded. The rest of the Saddamist mercenaries who attempted to escape became the prisoners of our capable fighters.

An enemy plane which attempted to bomb our positions this morning was shot down by the timely fire of air defense units. The report by the Central News Unit correspondent also states that the zealous braves of Islam captured a number of vehicles and other equipment during the operations carried out last night in two axes. The selfless brave fighters then established their positions and began defending them. The Ba'thist mercenaries captured by the Islamic fighters are being transferred behind the fronts.

Second Lieutenant (Abdolmajid Moayyed Majid 'Abdulbaqi), an officer of the 1st Batallion stationed northwest of Khorramshahr, who became a prisoner of the powerful fighters of Islam, in an interview with our correspondent said:

Following the start of the attack by the fighters of Islam against our defensive lines, the majority of the personnel of the 1st atallion, which included my men, were either killed or wounded. The rest attempted to escape in the desert in utter confusion. By morning most of them, including myself, were captured by the Iranian fighters and transferred behind the fronts.

One of the Iraqi armored columns began fighting the Islamic fighters last night ahead of us. A large number of the tanks, vehicles and personnel carriers were destroyed by the Iranian shells and RPG-7's, and the rest attempted to escape. Around 70 tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles were left behind and the forces of Islam captured these together with other equipment left behind.

The Iraqi officer, referring to the Iraqi Army's situation, said: The Iraqi Army lost about half of its forces following the Iraqi aggression against Ira The majority of the remaining forces are currently against the war or are trying to evade it. The Iraqi Army has no choice but to resort to use of propaganda about its so-called victories.

Talking about the internal situation in Iraq, the army officer said: The internal situation in the country is grave and the majority of the people want the fall of the Ba'th Party. This is because there is at least one dead or wounded in every family.

The Iraqi people have seen nothing but war and suffocation from the Ba'th Party and its mercenary rulers. They are under severe pressure and all their activities are controlled by the army and the security organization.

Hamadan Death Toll Updated

LD172016 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Following the bombardment of Hamadan by the Iraqi bomber planes yesterday, the imam's representative and Hamadan's Friday prayers leader, Ayatollah Hoseyn Nuri, cabled a telegram to the leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and announced: As a result of this bombardment, until now over 100 residents of this city have been martyred and more than 500 others have been injured and several residential houses have been demolished.

In this telegram, Ayatollah Nuri has emphasized that the people of Hamadan will continue with their struggle and resistance until the regime of Saddam is annihilated.

Joint Staff Communique 981

LD171816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Communique No 981 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] While the powerful combatants of Islam are achieving repeated victories in the Ramadan Operation, their heroic brothers on other battlefronts are dealing blows on the feeble Saddamites and are hastening the downfall of the ghoulish regime of Baghdad.

During the past 24 hours, the exchange of fire was intense in the Meymak region and sporadic in other western areas. While preventing enemy movements on the western fronts, our forces continued their efforts to clear those fronts of minefields and boodytraps and to strengthen their defensive positions. As a result of the artillery fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions in the Tutman, Haft Tavanan and Biarreh areas, a number of military supply points and trenches belonging to the enemy were destroyed. In addition, the (Bannir) oil installations in Iraq were set on fire as a result of our forces' artillery fire.

Yesterday our brave combatants in the (Bayat) area, near Musian, fought hard against Ba'thist mercenaries who intended to penetrate their positions. After hours of fighting, our forces killed a group of Saddamites, captured 14 Iraqis and forced the others to retreat. Large quantities of ammunition and arms were captured from the enemy during this operation.

There was an exchange of fire near Abadan between the shore units of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran and enemy forces of the banks of the Arvand Rud. Thanks to our forces' superior firepower, the Iraqi forces' traffic on the Al-Faw-Basra road was disrupted and a number of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded. Saddam's army fired on the residential areas of Abadan yesterday with long-range heavy weapons. This resulted in losses and casualties.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iraqi 'Infiltration' Attempt

LD172042 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 17, IRNA -- The aggressor Iraqis suffered considerable losses Friday night as their infiltration attempt in the Qasr-e Shirin region, Bakhtaran Province, was severely smashed by the Islamic combatants. In these operations, 17 Iraqi soldiers were captured.

In another development yesterday 5 enemy soldiers were killed and 10 others were taken captive when the Iranian defenders smashed the Iraqi forces who attempted to attack the Iranian positions in the Musian region, Ilam Province. In this region, the Islamic troops, seizing some Iraqi munitions, forced the enemy to retreat.

Meanwhile, exchanges of fire continued in most of the western fronts over the 24 hours preceding Saturday. During this same time the Iranian forces, firing on the enemy positions and installations in the Banamil region of Iraq silenced the Iraqi artillery as well as setting ablaze the Banamil oil installations. Also, the Islamic forces inflicted heavy casualties upon the Iraqi forces when the former barraged the enemy strongholds in the Iraqi regions of Chilat, Tutman, Haft Tavanan and Biarreh.

Some aggressor Iraqi planes w ich violated the western airspace of Ilam, Sumar, Marivan, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Sar Dasht, were all forced to flee by the anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian defenders over the aforementioned time.

Another report indicated that 2 Iraqi citizens who had come to realise the wicked nature of Saddam's regime sought asylum in Iran Saturday. These refugees entered the Islamic Republic through the western border presenting themselves to the Islamic forces.

Iraqis Killing Iranian POW's

LD172114 Tehran IRNA in English 1949 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] Khorramshahr, July 17 (IRNA) -- An Iraqi colonel, Abdolnaam 'Abdallah, recently taken captive by the Islamic forces, said today that Iraqi soldiers killed Iranian POWs upon the orders of their commanders. The colonel, who was captured during the Ramadan offensive of the Islamic forces, said in an interview with IRNA here that he had personally heard and seen this during the Iraqi occupation of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab in western Iran and a few days ago when "several" Iranian soldiers and Islamic revolutionary guards were "executed" when they were taken captive by the Iraqis near the Kativan stream, a branch of the Arvand River.

Colonel 'Abdallah, who commanded the Second Battalion of the 504th Iraqi Infantry Brigade, said that the tide of the Islamic revolution of Iran was considered a threat to the Iraqi regime which in turn launched its aggression on Iran. He said now he believed that the Iranian offensive into Iraq would lead to the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. The colonel, who did not seem unhappy over his captivity, said that he considered Iraqi president's allegations that Iran shelled civilian areas as "empty talk," adding that he knew well that "Iran only pounded military and economic targets (inside Iraq)." Questioned if the Islamic fighters of Iran had the right to enter Iraq, Colonel 'Abdallah said that Iran did have the right — since, in his point of view, Iran did not covet Iraqi territory and only entered Iraq to liberate the Iraqi people from the "infidel rulers" in Baghdad.

Another Iraqi captive officer, Second Lieutenant Davud Jabir Anad, said that out of 405 soldiers he commanded in the third company of the 12th Battalion of the 102nd Brigade, 105 of them had escaped and the rest were either killed or taken captive during last night's offensive of the Iranian forces east of the Iraqi fish hatchery in the southern fronts. He said that it was "too late" for the Iraqi Army to be able to resist the Islamic forces because they lacked the necessary morale to fight.

Joint Communique 6

LD181232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jul 82

[Joint Communique No 6 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mohammad, the prophet of God, and those who follow him are harsh with the enemy but are merciful among themselves. [Koranic verse]

The determined Islamic warriors shall continue their relentless fight against world oppressors and their mercenary lackneys such as 'Aflaqite-Zionist Iraqi regime and Zionist Israel until their rotten roots are eradicated.

Continuing the Ramadan Operation, the mighty Islamic forces, comprising the heroes of the Islamic Republic's Army, the self-sacrificing guards, and the Mobilization of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps enjoying the divine blessing and the prayers of the imam and the martyr-nurturing nation, and continuing their liberation advance, dealt heavy blows and high casualties on the Ba'thist-Zionists inside Iraqi territory. The children of Islam have fortified their positions in Iraqi territory and continue to mop up the theater of operations of the Saddamite forces, maintaining their full (?superiority) and their observations of the enemy's deployment. Full figures of recent operations by the Islamic warriors show they are inflicting heavy and crushing blows on the Ba'thist enemy.

Our warriors, continuing their mopping-up operations in the battlefields, have destroyed 62 tanks and personnel carriers on one axis and 54 tanks and personnel carriers on another. A total of 116 Iraqi tanks have been destroyed [as heard]. Furthermore, following coordinated operations by Islamic warriors, heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on 30th Armored Brigade of the 6th Division and the 6th Brigade of the 3d Division.

Figures on Iraqi POW's already transferred reach 800, among which are a number of officers and NOC's. One of the POW's is (Col 'Abd al-Moqim 'Abdallah) commander of 2d Battalion in 504 Brigade. This Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi battalion was totally smashed by the Islamic warriors, with all its servicemen either killed, wounded or taken prisoner. The enemy's casualties -- those killed or wounded, during the recent operations by Islamic forces, total 850.

The air force and air corps airmen of the Islamic forces also attacked enemy positions and fortifications in the theater of operations, causing enemy casualties and losses. Meanwhile, our brothers are engaged in collecting booty and transferring it behind the frontlines. In line with the misled Ba'thist-Zionist servicemen who joined the Islamic forces, about 14 more sought asylum. These were servicemen who discovered the filthy and criminal nature of the Iraqi regime. The Islamic force's open arms are always ready to welcome misled Iraqi Army servicemen -- servicemen who have realized the legitimacy of the Islamic front and of the Islamic revolution.

We hope for the final victory of the Islamic fighters and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of the occupying Zionists. Victory comes from God and it is near.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

NVOI EXAMINES RENEWED FIGHTING WITH IRAQ

NC161422 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 15 Jul 82

[Commentary: "The Outcome of Incorrect Calculations Will Be Calamitous"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As you know, the war and military disputes have now been drawn into Iraqi territory. The world's news agencies and press carry various comments on reports on the attack by the Armed Forces and Revolution Guards Corps of Iran.

(?In relation with this) it is worthwhile to briefly review the incidents of 20 months ago, that is, at the time when this destructive war, which is contrary to our interests and the interests of the Iraqi nation, was imposed on our country and nation at the hands of imperialist elements, led by world-devouring America. What [word indistinct], the United States and regional reaction thought that by using the postrevolutionary problems faced by our nation and the dispersion of the former regime's armed forces, they could have toppled the Islamic Republic and reimposed a favored regime, like the dead shah's regime, on our nation.

But the truth is that world-devouring America and regional reaction did not take into consideration an important factor in their calculations, which is the feeling of patriotism, the high revolutionary spirit and (?the unity of our ever-alert nation).

Even though during the first months of the imposed war, our country suffered many physical and financial losses with a part of our homeland's territory occupied by foreign forces, it was nevertheless not long before our nation foiled the plot hatched by Bani-Sadr and his clique and aimed its strength and possibilities, with (?more unity) at defending the country's independence and territorial integrity to oust foreign troops from the country. Everyone, both friend and foe, confess that the devotion and heroism shown by the Iranian nation -- young and old, men and women -- in defending the homeland, the revolution's gains and in ousting the foreigners was a rare and, in some cases, unprecedented act.

Our country's officials have repeatedly announced that Iran does not intend to occupy others' territories. What Iran wants is a regime and government in power in its neighboring country that will not once again spark off the flame of a similar calamity and inflict so many physical and financial losses both on our nation and on the Iraqi nation. Such a demand is reasonable and (?legitimate) as any country would demand of its neighbor. (?Until the time) that our military and popular forces defended our homeland in order to oust foreign troops from our territory, our objective was a human, just and legitimate objective. But now the continuation of the war on Iraqi territory presents the problem in another form, both in the relations between the two countries and on the regional level. This means that under present conditions it is possible that by using the present situation, the United States may bring the regimes dependent on it in the region -- the regimes of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and their likes -- that are terrorized with Iran's revolution and its scene of war, thereby, at the same time, further increase U.S. military presence in the region. [sentence as heard]

From the time when our country's press and mass media started carrying articles on exporting the revolution and the need to continue the war on Iraqi territory, we said that these remarks and articles are contrary to the views and remarks of the country's officials and far from (?reality). It cannot be claimed that the continuation of the war on Iraqi territory is the best path and means for gaining war compensations or for divesting the opposite side of the possiblity to reattack our territory. In addition, when undertaking [words indistinct] the right thing would have been, and is, to take into consideration all the possibilities of the opposite side and especially the maneuvers by world-devouring America and the insane efforts of regional reactionary regimes and their outcomes. Needless to say, the determination of the destiny of each nation is the affair of the nation concerned, and if we want to help the fraternal nation in forwarding this vital issue, then basically, assistance should be in the form of support for that nation's popular and anti-imperialist movement in which organizations, parties, religious and secular councils and various peoples participate. It should not be forgotten that the trend of the liberation, popular and anti-imperialist movement in any country, even in Muslim countries, is based on a range of general rules and norms; nevertheless, each movement has its own special characteristics. We cannot point to two Muslim countries as an example of complete similarity from all aspects in the trends of their popular and anti-imperialist movements. It is important to note this reality, especially since once in a while some officials, even in higher echelons, rely on and support one faction -- the religious faction -- in Iraq's anti-imperialist and popular forces but do not want to take into consideration the political, social, popular and progressive forces that are effective in that country's anti-imperialist movement.

The fear is that egotistic approach and incorrect calculations may be costly for our Islamic Republic, for the ultimate destiny of the war and for the whole of our nation's struggles to weaken the bases of U.S. imperialist domination.